His ashes lie buried in a restful corner of mother earth, with a fresh plantain plant planted over, with a light burning incessnatly. May the memory of his life be planted in the hearts of all, may it bear fruits of good will and love, and may the lamp of learning lighted by him shine for ever to illumine our dear Cochin.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir,

"ശൈശവമഭ്യസ്യവിദ്യാനാം
യൌവ്വനെവിഷയൈഷിണാം.
വാൽകെമുനിവൃത്തിനാം
യൊഗെനാന്തതനുത്യജാം".

Solar Princes devoted their childhood to education, their youth to the enjoyment of temporal power and their declining years to an ascetic life (to a residence in the forest), finally closing their worthy lives in a state of rapt communion.

Sir, I rise to second the Resolution. After the elaborate and the lucid speech of the Leader of the House I am afraid I have not much to say.

I propose to view the whole life of the late Maharaja in three different stages:—First, from his birth 1028 to 1071 a period of active study and preparation for his future work as the Ruler. Second stage as the Ruler from 1071 to 1090. Third, after abdication from 1090 to death till 1107.

His Highness the late Rama Varmah succeeded to the Musnad in 1071. In the next year His Highness paid his first visit to Madras. In 1897 the Raja was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India. In 1900 the State was honoured for the first time by a visit from His Excellency the then Viceroy Lord Curzon. Towards the close of 1902 His Highness made an extended tour in Upper India, and attended the Coronation Darbar at Delhi, when His Highness was invested with the Insignia of the Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire. In the next year His Highness made a smaller tour in Southern India, which was concluded by a visit to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore in 1904. The latter returned this visit in the following year of which I make mention here as being unique in the history of the State. In December 1906 His Highness had the honour of paying his respects to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in Madras. In the same year the Raja's salute was raised to 19 guns.

The remarkable progress that the State has made in all directions can be seen from the following:—

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The complete reorganisation of the account system on the British Indian model, the construction of the State Railway at the cost of the State, the commencement and completion of the cadastral survey of the State, the beginning of a scientific working of the forests, the construction of a Forest Steam Tramway to provide an outlet for the hitherto inaccessible forests, the initiation and completion of revenue settlement on a systematic and equitable basis and the improvement of Excise administration. The revenue and the magisterial functions were separated a department of Public Health was brought into existence, the Devaswam Department was thoroughly reorganised and practically disestablished, the Account Department was placed on a sounder footing, an Agricultural Department was opened, Tenancy Regulation introduced, an Industrial Survey of the State was carried out and provision made for Industrial and technical education and for the improvement of agriculture and industries. Improvement of fisheries was taken in hand. Municipal administration was introduced in some of the towns, efficient and up-to-date methods of working were introduced into all Departments, and Departmental procedure was codified all round with a view to ensure continuity of policy. Education also made great strides during the period. In fact His Highness electrified the sleepy-hollow of Cochin.

His Highness attained the sixtieth year of his age on the 25th December 1912. Shashtipurthi is an event of considerable importance according to the Hindu notions, and in the case of His Highness this importance was greatly enhanced in the eyes of his people by the circumstance that none of his predecessors had for a long time attained that age and also by the fact that His Highness' reign of over seventeen years was crowded with solid and many-sided administrative achievements of a brilliant and beneficient character. Naturally therefore, the occasion called forth demonstrations of joy and thankfulness unprecedented in the recent annals of Cochin. The people presented an address to His Highness on the Shashtipurthi *Thirunal*, and decided to have a bronze Statue of His Highness on the foreshore of Ernakulam. The address contained *inter alia* the following:—"Very few in the long line of Rulers of Cochin are known to have lived to celebrate their sixtieth birthday and never before in its history did the State attain that degree of prosperity and prestige to which His Highness has raised it by His strenuous and sagacious rule. His Highness' reign marks a new era in the history of Cochin. His great intellectual gifts and scholarly attainments and his indefatigable energy and devotion to duty led the people look forward to an exceptionally prosperous and successful administration. And they were proud and thankful to be able to proclaim to the word that, in the wonderful achievements of that period, they did more than realise their high expectations."

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His Highness' reply contains the following salient points:— "You are already aware that I intend a Town Hall to be erected at Ernakulam and to give it for the free use of the public." (The very hall in which we have assembled now is the free gift of His Highness). "It is also my desire to revive, in commemoration of this occasion the old Village Panchayat system, which I trust, will give facilities to the people to settle several matters of each village easily and quickly among themselves, and give them some training in the art of self-government. I wish also to let you know my earnest desire to introduce some measure of constitutional reform. The measure which I wish to introduce must give you a real voice in the Administration of the State. Gentlemen, I am sure you will not appreciate any scheme which may exist purely for name's sake and which may not have any reality or substance. I also wish to announce a scheme is ready for the development of Sanskrit learning and for the improvement of Malayalam literature". Here, I may mention that His Highness was a Patron of Letters, and a profound Sanskrit Scholar. His Highness granted a sum of half a lakh of rupees as a fund for the fulfilment of those objects.

When His Highness' Statue was unveiled on 13th October 1925 by Lord Goshen, His Excellency said :—"We judge men by the fruit of their work and the works of a good Ruler are the advancement and prosperity of His subjects. How much of advancement and meterial welfare Cochin owes to His Highness the Ex-Raja we all know well and seeing the high position to which the State has risen to day, he may rest well content with the fruit of his labours".

Sir, coming as I do from Chittur, I am proud to say that His Highness never neglected our Taluk. His Highness visited Chittur both as Elaya Raja and Maharaja and spent several days there studying its conditions. In fact He was the only Member of the Ruling Family to pay such a visit to our Taluk. We are aware at the same time that one of His predecessors (Veera Kerala Varma) passed through Chittur in July 1852 on his way to Benares which did not amount to a formal visit to our isolated and neglected Taluk.

Now, Sir, I am come to the last stage of His Highness' life. Our National test for genuine greatness has been, rightly or wrongly, *renunciation*. A stanza from the great Indian Poet, as so appropriate to the case of a Great Hindu Prince, may be permitted me.

Before I quote, I would remind you that the one whom the stanza appears so realistically to describe is himself a scion of the Great Solar Race celebrated by the Poet in his famous Raghuvamsam wherefrom it is taken:

അഥ സ വിഷയ വ്യാവൃത്താത്മാ യഥാവിധി സൂനവേ
നൃപതി കുലം മഹത്പാപ്യനേ സിതാതപവാരണം.
മുനിവനതരുഛായാം ദേവ്യാതയാസഹശിശ്രിയേ
ഗളിതവയസാം ഇക്ഷ്വാകൂണാം ഇദംഹി കുലവ്രതം.

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"And now he with his mind disengaged from world and its attractions, having entrusted to his youthful son the royal Insignia consisting of the white umbrella, betook himself in company with his queen to the shade of the trees of the forest suitable for a Muni; for such was the family custom of the Ikshaku Princes in the closing days of their lives".

Kalidasa says that the Solar Princes were not subject to the witchery of Royal power, but were, even when wielding it, practising Rajarishis. No wonder when an able successor was forthcoming, their Royal mantles slipped and they gladly retired to Ashrams seeking the safety of their souls' enternal safety.

Was it not then, Sir, I ask, this irresistible urge after an exclusive spiritual life that prompted his late Highness to take the unprecedented step of abdicating His Throne and retiring into the Ashram-like 'Merry Lodge' in Trichur where, far from the madding crowds' ignoble eternal strife, he reached, so all of us fervently hope, the goal, so precious to all true sons of India (Hindus), the Brahmasayugyam (ബ്രഹ്മസായുജ്യം)? *OM, Santhi, Santhi, Santhi.*

The resolution was carried unanimously, the whole House standing.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—With your permission, Sir, may I make a few suggestions ?

President.—Yes. What are they ?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The President is requested to place a copy of the resolution before His Highness the Maharaja;

2. the President is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the late Highness' Consort; and

3. the whole proceedings to be published in the Government Gazette.

President.—Noted.

The House was adjourned for the day at 12·20 P. M.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.

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